Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said call information includes an identity associated with said terminating station.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said call information further includes carrier information associated with said terminating station.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said carrier information includes a carrier type for use in routing said call to said terminating station.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said step of routing further includes the step of routing said call according to said carrier type.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said carrier type further includes a circuit switched carrier

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said carrier type further includes a packet switched carrier.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

retrieving a roaming number for said terminating station.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said communication system further includes a gateway mobile switching center (GMSC), a visited network associated with said originating station, a home network associated with said terminating station, and a homing packet switched leg associated with said originating station, and wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

terminating said homing packet switched leg at said home network; and

routing said call to said terminating station through said GMSC.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said step of routing further includes the steps of:

first extending tandem free operation (TFO) negotiation between said originating station and said terminating station from said first and second voice gateways toward said one of said one or more packet switched legs; and

second extending said TFO negotiation from said one of said one or more packet switched legs toward said first and second voice gateways.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a call between an originating station and a terminating station in a communication network that includes one or more packet switched legs, a first visited network associated with said terminating station and a second visited network associated with said originating station, said first and second visited networks each having a voice gateway, comprising the steps of:

evaluating call information associated with said call at a call control point;

routing said call to said terminating station directly over one of said one or more packet switched legs to said ~~terminating~~ first visited network based on said call information such that a quality level of said call is optimized by

negotiating an end-to-end encoding between said originating station and said terminating station, wherein said negotiating further comprises:

first signaling using out-of-band signaling within said one of said one or more packet switched legs; and

second signaling using inband signaling through said first and second voice gateways away from said one of said one or more packet switched legs.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein said inband signaling includes GSM TS 04.53 based signaling.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said out-of-band signaling includes H. 245 based signaling.

18. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said identity includes a PIC identity associated with said terminating station.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said call information further includes a user profile.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 [[30]], wherein said call information includes an identity associated with said terminating station.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said call information further includes carrier information associated with said terminating station.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said carrier information includes a carrier type for use in routing said call to said terminating station.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said step of routing further includes the step of routing said call according to said carrier type.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said carrier type further includes a circuit switched carrier

26. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein said carrier type further includes a packet switched carrier.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, said method further comprising:

means for retrieving a roaming number for said terminating station.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, further comprising:

a gateway mobile switching center (GMSC);

a home network associated with said terminating station; and

a homing packet switched leg associated with said originating station; wherein said gatekeeper is further configured to:

terminate said homing packet switched leg at said home network; and

route said call to said terminating station through said GMSC.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, further comprising:

a voice gateway associated with each of said first and second visited networks; wherein said gatekeeper is further configured to:

first extend tandem free operation (TFO) negotiation between said originating station and said terminating station from said first and second voice gateways toward said one of said one or more packet switched legs; and

second extend said TFO negotiation from said one of said one or more packet switched legs toward said first and second voice gateways.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 30,~~ A system for routing a call between an originating station and a terminating station in a communication network that includes a visited network associated with said terminating station, and one or more packet switched legs, a first visited network associated with said terminating station and a second visited network associated with said originating station, said first and second visited networks each having a voice gateway, wherein said step of negotiating said end-to-end encoding further includes:

a packet switched backbone;

a gatekeeper node coupled to said packet switched backbone, said gatekeeper node configured to:

evaluate call information associated with said call; and

route said call to said terminating station directly over one of said one or more packet switched legs to said terminating visited network based on said call information such that a quality level of said call is optimized by

negotiating an end to end encoding between said originating station and said terminating station, wherein said negotiating further comprises:

first signaling using out-of-band signaling within said one of said one or more packet switched legs; and

second signaling using inband signaling through said first and second voice gateways away from said one of said one or more packet switched legs.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said inband signaling includes GSM TS 04.53 based signaling.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein said out-of-band signaling includes H. 245 based signaling.

34. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein said identity includes a PIC identity associated with said terminating station.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 [[20]], wherein said call information further includes a user profile.

